

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-implemented search processing method, comprising:

searching a predetermined document group according to a first search condition specified by a user to extract data of a plurality of documents from a storage that stores said predetermined document group;

transforming said data of said plurality of documents into information to indicate said data of said plurality of documents to said user in a first display form and to enable said user to select a display item to be utilized as a second search condition in a following processing wherein said display item is generated from said data of said plurality of documents extracted from said storage, and outputting the transformed information;

receiving designation of a second display form from said user;

extracting data of documents corresponding to said display item selected by said user from said storage or said data of said plurality of documents; and

transforming said data of said documents corresponding to said selected display item into information to indicate said data of said documents to said user in a said second display form, which is designated by said user and different from said first display form, specified by said user and to enable said user to select a display item to be utilized as a third search condition in a following processing, wherein said display item is generated from said data of said documents corresponding to said selected display item, and outputting the transformed information.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-implemented search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein each said first and second display forms is at least one of

a first form showing indications of extracted documents that have been classified by used words in said extracted documents,

a second form showing indications of said extracted documents, and segments between the indications, each said segment representing a degree of relevancy between said extracted documents, that is calculated by used words in said extracted documents,

a third form showing a graph representing a result obtained by classifying and aggregating said extracted documents based on used words in said extracted documents;

a fourth form showing used words in said extracted documents and segments representing a degree of relevancy among said used words,

a fifth form showing first indications of document groups, second indications of used words in said extracted documents, and segments between said first indications and said second indications, said document group being composed of said extracted documents associated by a specific matter, and each of said segments representing a degree of relevancy between said document group and said used word, and

~~said method further comprises receiving, before said second transforming, information concerning said second display form specified by said user, wherein said second display form is selected from one of said first to fifth forms.~~

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-implemented search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first transforming comprises:

dividing said plurality of documents into clusters by using said data of said plurality of documents;

extracting second data to be displayed from said data of said plurality of documents, wherein a type of the extracted second data is predefined for said first display form; and

generating, for each said cluster, information to display the extracted second data to be utilized as said second search condition in said following processing.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-implemented search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first transforming comprises:

calculating a degree of relevancy between said plurality of documents by using said data of said plurality of documents;

extracting, for each of said plurality of documents, a first data item to be displayed from said data of said plurality of documents, wherein a type of said first data item is predefined for said first display form; and

generating information to display the extracted first data items to be utilized as said second search condition in said following processing, and a segment that connects between said first data items and represents the calculated degree of relevancy between said documents corresponding to said first data items.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-implemented search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first transforming comprises:

dividing said plurality of documents into classes based on used words included in said data of said plurality of documents, and counting a number of documents in each said class based on a specific matter predefined for said first display form; and
generating information to display the counting result.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-implemented search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first transforming comprises:

calculating a degree of relevancy between used words included in said data of said plurality of documents; and

generating information to display said used words to be utilized as said second search condition in said following processing, and a segment that connects between said used words and represents the calculated degree of relevancy between said used words.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-implemented search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first transforming comprises:

relating said plurality of documents into document groups based on a specific matter predefined for said first display form;

calculating a degree of relevancy between said document group and a used word included in said data of said plurality of documents; and

generating information to display said document groups by said data of said specific matter, and the calculated degree of relevancy between said document group and said used word by a segment connecting between said document group and said used word, wherein said document group and said used word are to be utilized as said second search condition in said following processing.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-implemented search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second transforming comprises:

dividing said documents corresponding to said selected display item into clusters by using said data of said documents corresponding to said selected display item;

extracting third data to be displayed from said data of said documents corresponding to said selected display item, wherein a type of the extracted third data is predefined for said second display form; and

generating, for each said cluster, information to display the extracted third data to be utilized as said third search condition in said following processing.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-implemented search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second transforming comprises:

calculating a degree of relevancy between said documents corresponding to said selected display item by using said data of said documents corresponding to said selected display item;

extracting, for each of said documents corresponding to said selected display item, a second data item to be displayed from said data of said documents corresponding to said selected display item, wherein a type of said second data item is predefined for said second display form; and

generating information to display the extracted second data items to be utilized as said third search condition in said following processing, and a segment that connects between said second data items and represents the calculated degree of relevancy between said documents corresponding to said selected second data item.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-implemented search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second transforming comprises:

dividing said documents corresponding to said selected display item into classes based on used words included in said data of said documents corresponding to said selected display item, and counting a number of documents in each said class based on a specific matter predefined for said second display form; and

generating information to display the counting result.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-implemented search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second transforming comprises:

calculating a degree of relevancy between used words included in said data of said documents corresponding to said selected display item; and

generating information to display said used words to be utilized as said third search condition in said following processing, and a segment that connects between said used words and represents the calculated degree of relevancy between said used words.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-implemented search processing

method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second transforming comprises:

categorizing said documents corresponding to said selected display item into document groups based on a specific matter predefined for said second display form;

calculating a degree of relevancy between said document group and a used word included in said data of said documents corresponding to said selected display item; and

generating information to display said document groups by said data of said specific matter, and the calculated degree of relevancy between said document group and said used word by a segment connecting between said document group and said used word, wherein said document group and said used word are to be utilized as said third search condition in said following processing.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-implemented search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a document included in said predetermined document group is a patent document, and said display item is either of bibliographic information of said patent document and a used word in said patent document.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-implemented search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least either of said first and second transformings comprises specifying a display program corresponding to a display form, and generating information for said display program.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-implemented search processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least either of said first and second display forms is an arbitrary combination of predefined display forms.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable medium storing instructions being executable by a processor to perform a method comprising:

searching a predetermined document group according to a first search condition specified by a user to extract data of a plurality of documents from a storage that stores said predetermined document group;

transforming said data of said plurality of documents into information to indicate said data of said plurality of documents to said user in a first display form and to enable said user to select a display item to be utilized as a second search condition in a following processing, wherein said display item is generated from said data of said plurality of documents extracted from said

storage, and outputting the transformed information;

receiving designation of a second display form from said user;

extracting data of documents corresponding to said display item selected by said user from said storage or said data of said plurality of documents; and

transforming said data of said documents corresponding to said selected display item into information to indicate said data of said documents to said user in a said second display form, which is designated by said user and different from said first display form, specified by said user and to enable said user to select a display item to be utilized as a third search condition in a following processing, wherein said display item is generated from said data of said documents corresponding to said selected display item, and outputting the transformed information.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 16, wherein each said first and second display forms is at least one of

a first form showing indications of extracted documents that have been classified by used words in said extracted documents,

a second form showing indications of said extracted documents, and segments between the indications, each segment representing a degree of relevancy between said extracted documents, that is calculated by used words in said extracted documents,

a third form showing a graph representing a result obtained by classifying and aggregating said extracted documents based on used words in said extracted documents;

a fourth form showing used words in said extracted documents and segments representing a degree of relevancy among said used words,

a fifth form showing first indications of document groups, second indications of used words in said extracted documents, and segments between said first indications and said second indications, said document group being composed of said extracted documents associated by a specific matter, and each of said segments representing a degree of relevancy between said document group and said used word and

~~said method further comprises receiving, before said second transforming, information concerning said second display form specified by said user, wherein said second display form is selected from one of said first to fifth forms.~~

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A search processing apparatus, comprising:

a search unit that searches a predetermined document group according to a first search condition specified by a user to extract data of a plurality of documents from a storage that

stores said predetermined document group;

a first transformer that transforms said data of said plurality of documents into information to indicate said data of said plurality of documents to said user in a first display form and to enable said user to select a display item to be utilized as a second search condition in a following processing, wherein said display item is generated from said data of said plurality of documents extracted from said storage, and outputs the transformed information;

a receiver that receives designation of a second display form from said user;

an extractor that extracts data of documents corresponding to said display item selected by said user from said storage or said data of said plurality of documents; and

a second transformer that transforms said data of said documents corresponding to said selected display item into information to indicate said data of said documents to said user in a said second display form, which is designated by said user and different from said first display form, specified by said user and to enable said user to select a display item to be utilized as a third search condition in a following processing, wherein said display item is generated from said data of said documents corresponding to said selected display item, and outputs the transformed information.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search processing apparatus as set forth in claim 18, wherein each said first and second display forms is at least one of

a first form showing indications of extracted documents that have been classified by used words in said extracted documents,

a second form showing indications of said extracted documents, and segments between the indications, each said segment representing a degree of relevancy between said extracted documents, that is calculated by used words in said extracted documents,

a third form showing a graph representing a result obtained by classifying and aggregating said extracted documents based on used words in said extracted documents;

a fourth form showing used words in said extracted documents and segments representing a degree of relevancy among said used words,

a fifth form showing first indications of document groups, second indications of used words in said extracted documents, and segments between said first indications and said second indications, said document group being composed of said extracted documents associated by a specific matter, and each of said segments representing a degree of relevancy between said document group and said used word, and

said apparatus further comprises a receiver that receives information concerning said

~~second display form specified by said user, wherein said second display form is selected from one of said first to fifth forms.~~

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method, comprising:

extracting data selected by a user from a plurality of documents stored as a predetermined document group by searching the predetermined document group based on a search condition;

transforming the data from the plurality of documents stored in the predetermined document group into information to the user in a display form, which is designated by the user, that enables the user to select a search result as a following search condition to search the predetermined document group based on the following search condition, the search result is generated from the data stored in the predetermined document group; and

outputting a transformed search result.

21. (NEW) A method, comprising:

extracting a first set of data of documents from a storage device based on a search condition entered by a user;

outputting information, which is changed from the first set of the data, to enable the user to select a second search condition from display items generated from the first set of the data of the documents extracted from the storage device;

extracting a second set of data of documents from the storage device that relates to the second search condition after receiving a specified display format from the user; and

outputting information, which is changed from the second set of the data related to the second search condition, to enable the user to select a third search condition from display items generated from the second set of the data of the documents related to the second search condition.

22. (NEW) A method, comprising:

searching a database using a first search condition entered by user;

using search results produced by the first search condition to create second search conditions one of which is selectable by the user for a second search; and

using search results produced by a selected second search condition to create third search conditions one of which is selectable by the user for a third search.